

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

As an initial matter, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the search and for finding allowable subject matter.

The Examiner has allowed claims 20-30. These claims are re-presented herein.

The Examiner has objected to claims 4, 6, 7, 10, and 13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4, 6, 7, 10, and 13 have been amended to substantially incorporate the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that claims 4, 6, 7, 10, and 13 be passed to allowance.

In addition, claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 14-19 have been amended to depend from one of claims 4, 6, 7, 10, and 13. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 14-19 are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations set forth in each of these dependent claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner pass claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 14-19 to allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 has been amended to overcome the rejection. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review the amendments and withdraw the rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review the amendments and withdraw the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18 and 19 have been amended to overcome the rejection.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection – Aslanis

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,901,180 issued to Aslanis et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in view of the amendments above.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection – Aslanis, Crawford

The Examiner has rejected claims 12 and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aslanis in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0114675 issued to Crawford.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in view of the amendments above.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the cited art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

Request For Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request For An Extension Of Time

The Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

Charge Our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 9/17/07

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